



**Results of the 2000 Off-Reservation
Waawaashkeshi (Deer) and Makwa (Bear)
Harvest in the Ceded Territories of Michigan**

by
Miles Falck
Wildlife Biologist

Administrative Report 01-05
April 2001

**Great Lakes Indian Fish
& Wildlife Commission**
Biological Services Division
P.O. Box 9
Odanah, WI 54861
(715) 682-6619

Results of the 2000 Waawaashkeshi (Deer) and Makwa (Bear) Hunting Seasons in the Ceded Territories of Michigan

Introduction

This report summarizes the 2000 tribal harvest of waawaashkeshi (deer) and makwa (bear) on lands in Michigan that were ceded to the United States by the Lake Superior Ojibwa in the treaties of 1836 and 1842 (Fig. 1). The majority of hunters were members of 3 Lake Superior bands with reservations in the upper peninsula (UP): Bay Mills Indian Community (BMIC), Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC), and the Lac Vieux Desert Band (LVD) (see Fig. 1). However, harvest by members of 1 Wisconsin Band signatory to the treaty of 1842 (Bad River) is also included in harvest totals for the 1842 ceded territory.

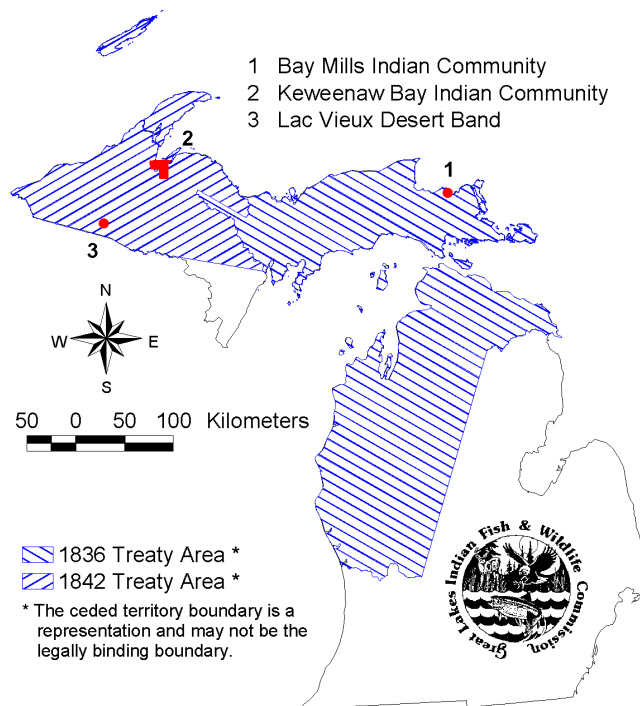


Figure 1. Location of GLIFWC member tribes and ceded territory in Michigan.

DEER HUNTING

Regulations

Tribal hunters within Michigan were regulated by distinct and specific tribal regulations for the 2000 season. Table 1 summarizes the major features of off-reservation tribal deer hunting regulations in Michigan by tribe.

Table 1. Tribal deer hunting season dates and bag limits for GLIFWC member tribes located in Michigan.^a

Tribe	Season Dates	Antlerless Bag Limit	Season Bag Limit
BMIC	1 Aug - 1 Jan	none	none
KBIC	1 Sep - 1 Jan	none	4
LVD	5 Sep - 31 Dec	annual quota	none

^a Members of one Wisconsin Band hunted in Michigan pursuant to the treaty of 1842.

Bay Mills tribal members hunted under regulations outlined in the BMIC Conservation Code. All members hunting off-reservation were required to carry a valid hunting permit issued by the tribal conservation department good for either antlerless or antlered deer on public lands within the 1836 treaty boundaries. The deer hunting season opened on August 1st and closed on January 1st. Hunting hours were from ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset. Tribal members were not required to register deer taken within the 1836 treaty area. There was no commercial harvest of deer but harvest for subsistence use was unlimited.

Keweenaw Bay tribal members hunted under regulations outlined in the KBIC Tribal Code. The deer hunting season opened on September 1st and closed on January 1st. Tribal hunters were required to possess a valid tribal hunting and fishing card that allowed members to hunt on reservation lands and public lands off-reservation throughout the 1842 treaty area. Initially 2 deer tags good for either antlerless or antlered deer were issued. Two additional tags could be obtained after registering the first 2 deer for a maximum of 4 deer during the season. All deer were required to be registered with the KBIC Conservation/Law Enforcement Program within 7 days of harvest.

Lac Vieux Desert tribal members hunted under regulations outlined in the LVD Off-Reservation Conservation Code. The deer hunting season opened on the day after Labor Day and closed on December 31st. Hunting hours were ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset. Tribal hunters were required to possess a valid off-reservation natural resources harvesting permit and were issued 2 carcass tags at a time. The tribe's governing body establishes bag limits and antlerless quotas annually. Antlerless permits were required to harvest antlerless deer. All deer harvested were required to

be tagged and registered at a tribal registration station by 5 p.m. of the next working day.

Methods

1836 Ceded Territory. Because registration was not required, a telephone survey (Appendix A) was used to estimate the number of deer harvested in the 1836 treaty ceded territory. Permit holders were sorted by phone number and every other permittee with a phone number listed was selected from a random starting point. The target sample size was 25%, but due to unlisted and erroneous telephone numbers, a total of 34 (24%) permittees were actually contacted during the survey. Total harvest was estimated by calculating the mean number of deer harvested per permit from the phone sample and multiplying it by the total number of permits issued. The antlerless ratio, and harvest by county and month were calculated similarly.

1842 Ceded Territory. Harvest data for the 1842 ceded territory in the UP were obtained from tribal registration stations where information was collected on each deer registered. Information included county and date of harvest, and type of deer (antlered or antlerless).

Results

The total tribal deer harvest in Michigan was estimated at 251 deer (43% antlerless)(Table 2). A total of 163 deer (43% antlerless) were registered in the 1842 ceded territory in Michigan and total harvest for the 1836 ceded territory in Michigan was estimated to be 88 deer (43% antlerless). No deer were reported harvested in the lower peninsula of Michigan in 2000. Harvest was greatest during November (Figure 2). Figure 3 illustrates the distribution of harvest by county for the ceded territories of Upper Michigan.

Table 2. 2000 Michigan tribal deer harvest by registration station^a.

Registration Station	Treaty Area of Harvest	Antlered	Antlerless	Total
Bay Mills	1836	50	38	88
Keweenaw Bay	1842	52	37	89
Lac Vieux Desert	1842	35	30	65
Bad River	1842	6	3	9
Total		143	108	251

^a Data for the 1836 ceded territory was estimated from a phone survey described above.

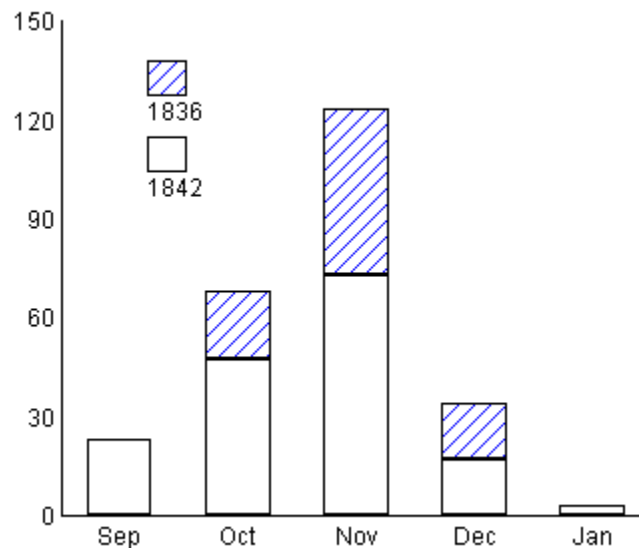


Figure 2. Tribal deer harvest by month in Upper Michigan, 2000.

Bear Hunting

Regulations

As with deer hunting, distinct tribal regulations governed tribal bear harvest in Michigan. Table 3 summarizes the major features of off-reservation tribal bear hunting regulations in Michigan by tribe.

Table 3. Tribal bear hunting season dates and bag limits for GLIFWC member tribes located in Michigan.

Tribe	Season Dates	Bag Limit
BMIC	1 Apr - 30 Jun 1 Sep - 30 Nov	none
KBIC	1 Sep - 1 Jan	1
LVD	5 Sep - 31 Dec	none

Bay Mills tribal members hunted under the regulations outlined in the BMIC Conservation Code. All members hunting off-reservation were required to carry a valid hunting permit issued by the tribal conservation department. The open season for bear ran from 1 April - 30 June and from 1 September - 30 November. Registration was not required for harvested bears and there was no bag limit. Unlawful hunting methods

included harvesting or molesting a bear in its den as well as harvesting a cub or a sow with cubs. Bait was restricted to organic matter placed on the ground.

_____Keweenaw Bay tribal members hunted under regulations outlined in the KBIC Tribal Code. As per KBIC deer hunting regulations, the possession of a valid tribal hunting and fishing card allowed tribal members to hunt on reservation lands and public lands off-reservation throughout the 1842 treaty area. The open season for bear ran from 1 September - 1 January. Registration was required for all harvested bear and the bag limit was 1 per season. Unlawful methods included the use of dogs, snares, or traps.

_____Lac Vieux Desert tribal members hunted under regulations outlined in the LVD Off-Reservation Conservation Code. The open season ran from the day after Labor Day - 31 October. There was no bag limit and registration was required for all bear harvested.

Methods

1836 Ceded Territory. A telephone survey (Appendix A) was used (as described above) to estimate the number of bear harvested. A total of 34 (24%) permittees were contacted during the survey.

1842 Ceded Territory. Harvest data for the 1842 portion of the UP were obtained from tribal registration stations where information was collected on each bear registered. Information included sex, county, and date of harvest.

Results

A total of 7 bear were harvested in the upper peninsula of Michigan in 2000 (Table 4). No bear were reported harvested in the phone survey of 1836 treaty area hunters.

Table 4. Number of bear harvested by Treaty Area during the 2000 tribal bear season in Michigan.

Treaty Area	Boar	Sow	No. Bear
1836 ^a	0	0	0
1842 ^b	3	4	7
Total	3	4	7

a = data estimated from survey sample

b = data from registration stations

Acknowledgments

I would like to acknowledge the assistance of Jeanne Bouschor, Keweenaw Bay license clerk, and Dan North, GLIFWC wildlife technician for compiling these results. Neil Kmiecik, GLIFWC biological services director, and Jonathan Gilbert, GLIFWC wildlife section leader, provided editorial comments.

2000 Deer Harvest Survey - 1836 Ceded Territory

Tribal ID number : _____

Did you hunt DEER **OFF-RESERVATION** with a **tribal** permit during the 2000 **tribal** deer season?

Yes No

In which county or counties did you hunt? (check all that apply)

Chippewa Mackinac Luce Other : _____

How many deer did you harvest? _____ (fill in table)

Number of Deer			Date of Harvest	County of Harvest
Antlered	Antlerless	Unknown		

2000 Bear Harvest Survey - 1836 Ceded Territory

Did you hunt BEAR **OFF-RESERVATION** with a **tribal** permit during the 2000 **tribal** bear season?

Yes No

In which county or counties did you hunt? (check all that apply)

Chippewa Mackinac Luce Other : _____

How many bears did you harvest? _____ (fill in table)

Number of Bear			Date of Harvest	County of Harvest
Boar	Sow	Unknown		